

REMARKS

Claims 22-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by O'Brien (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,435). O'Brien does not disclose an article having a coating including a nickel layer, a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacting the nickel layer, and an uncoated outer layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound directly contacting the strike layer. O'Brien discloses a substrate 10 having a corrosion protection layer 12 of copper, nickel and chromium that is directly adjacent to the substrate 10. An insulating layer 14 of oxides of titanium and zirconium, SiO_2 , SiOxCyHz , Al_2O_3 , $\text{AlOxCyHzZr}_3\text{N}_4$, ZrxNyCz , Hf_3N_4 , Hf_3N_4 or HfxNyCz is on the corrosion protection layer 12. A strike layer 16 of zirconium and/or titanium is applied on the insulating layer 14, and an outer layer 18 of ZrN , ZrCN , HfN or HfCN is on the strike layer 16 (column 7, lines 21-36 and column 8, lines 1 to 26).

Alternately, the insulating layer 14 is located on the outer layer 18 (column 8, lines 8 to 13). In the claimed invention, the coating includes a nickel layer, a strike layer of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacting the nickel layer, and an uncoated layer of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound directly contacting the strike layer. O'Brien does not anticipate the claimed invention, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 32-33 and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ameen (U.S. Patent No. 5,989,652). Ameen does not disclose an article having a coating including a nickel layer, a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacting the nickel layer, and an outer layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound directly contacting the strike layer. Ameen discloses a titanium/titanium nitride film stack formed on a substrate. The substrate can be silicon, thermal oxides, and patterned wafers including aluminum (column 3, lines 39 to 44). Ameen does not disclose that the substrate has a layer of nickel as claimed by Applicant. Ameen does not anticipate the claimed invention, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 28, 29 and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of O'Brien. The Examiner states on page 4 of the Office Action that it would be obvious to form

the substrate of O'Brien of aluminum, and therefore claims 28 and 29 are obvious. The Examiner also states that it would be obvious to omit the corrosion protection layer 12 of O'Brien, and therefore claims 32-41 are obvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As explained above, O'Brien does not disclose, suggest, or teach an article having a coating including a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacts a nickel layer and an uncoated outer layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound that directly contacts the strike layer. In O'Brien, the insulation layer 14 is applied on the corrosion protection layer 12 or the outer layer 18. Due to the presence of the insulation layer 14, O'Brien does not disclose, suggest or teach an article having a coating including a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacts a nickel layer and an uncoated outer layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound that directly contacts the strike layer. There is no suggestion in O'Brien to form an article having a coating with the claimed layers. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 39 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of O'Brien in view of Fink (U.S. Patent No. 5,759,677). The Examiner states on page 5 of the Office Action that Fink discloses that coatings used on faucets can also be used on doorknobs, and therefore claim 39 is obvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 39 depends on patentable independent claim 32 and is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Adding Fink to O'Brien does not render Claim 39 obvious. As stated above, O'Brien does not disclose, suggest, or teach an article having a coating including a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacting a nickel layer and an uncoated outer layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound directly contacting the strike layer. Therefore, even if combined, the combination of O'Brien and Fink would not disclose, suggest or teach claim 39. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 22, 23, 28-33 and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the publication Corrosion of Hard Coatings by Jehn. The Examiner states on page 5 of the Office Action that Jehn discloses an article having a coating including a strike layer of titanium

and a layer of titanium nitride on the strike layer. The Examiner states that Jehn does not disclose that the article is a faucet, but it would be obvious to make the article a faucet. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant has amended claims 22, 23, 28-33 and 38-41 to recite that the coating includes a nickel layer, a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacting the nickel layer, and a layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound directly contacting the strike layer. Although Jehn teaches the use of nickel layers, titanium layers, and titanium nitride layers, Jehn does not disclose, suggest or teach an article having a coating that is layered as claimed by Applicant. Therefore, the claims are not obvious in view of Jehn, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 22-54 are in condition for allowance. Enclosed is a check for \$1114.00 (\$234.00 for 13 additional dependent claims, \$110.00 for a one-month extension of time and \$770.00 for the Request for Continued Examination fee). No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
Attorneys for Applicant
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(248) 988-8360

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